

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use by a first node in an ad-hoc Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) which first node maintains a table of other nodes within the network which can be used for forwarding messages within the network, said method comprising:

receiving a first signal from a second node,

analyzing the first signal to determine its signal strength,

if the second node is -listed in the table maintained by the first node, comparing the signal strength to a first predetermined comparison level,

if the second node is not listed in the table, comparing the -signal strength to a second predetermined comparison level, and

if the signal strength -exceeds either the first or second predetermined -comparison level, the first node decides that the second node may be used in the table,

wherein the second predetermined comparison level is greater than the first predetermined comparison level.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, applied in an AODV system.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, applied in an IEEE 802.11 – type system.

4. (New) A first node in an ad-hoc Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) configured to:

maintain a table of other nodes within the network which can be used for forwarding messages within the network,

receive a first signal from a second node,

analyze the first signal to determine its signal strength,

compare the signal strength to a first predetermined comparison level if the second node is listed in the table maintained by the first node and maintain the second node in the table if the signal strength exceeds the first predetermined comparison level, and

compare the signal strength to a second predetermined comparison level if the second node is not listed in the table and add the second node to the table if the signal strength exceeds the second predetermined comparison level,

wherein the second predetermined comparison level is greater than the first predetermined comparison level.

5. (New) The method of claim 1, applied in an AODV system.

6. (New) The method of claim 1, applied in an IEEE 802.11-type system.